

Special Professional Development Opportunities in Writing Across the Curriculum

Promoting Critical Thinking Skills & Discouraging Plagiarism Through Sequenced Assignments & Writing Portfolios

Sensenbrenner Memorial Union Room 201 BC

Friday, March 4th

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Faculty can improve the quality of student writing by designing assignments that build upon student skills as an assignment unfolds. Breaking up a writing assignment into a series of steps or stages, or designing an entire semester's writing assignments around a sequence of rhetorical skills, can dramatically improve student performance and critical thinking skills. At a minimum, intervening during writing prevents students from turning in last-minute, poorly considered papers and gives students feedback—whether from you or from other students—at useful points in the development of their papers. Sequenced assignments have the additional benefit of making it virtually impossible for students to plagiarize in your course.

At this workshop, Dr. Steve Bellin, Director of the WAC Program and Assistant Professor of English, will introduce faculty to the notion of sequenced assignments and discuss how courses in all disciplines might benefit from incorporating them.

Using Plagiarism Detection Services & Search Tools: The Pros & Cons of Being a Writing Cop

Thursday, April 14th

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Sensenbrenner Memorial Union Shield Room]

Although sequenced assignments and writing portfolios can significantly deter plagiarism, there are still times when faculty may wish to use search tools and Internet-based detection tools to investigate potential cases of academic dishonesty. At this workshop, Dr. Steve Bellin, Director of the WAC Program and Assistant Professor of English, will discuss the uses and pitfalls of online search and detection tools and present his own experiments testing the effectiveness of three services: Turnitin.com, the EVE2 software program, and Plagiserve.com. Dr. Bellin's testing method is applicable to most St. Norbert disciplines, and faculty will be able to reproduce it for their own use.

Co-Sponsored by the
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